The Hampden Hippocrat

A Bulletin for the Hampden District of the Massachusetts Medical Society

VOLUME VIII FALL, 1952 No. 4

EX CATHEDRA
The District Medical Bulletin

The medical journal as the official publication of a society or an association, although of relatively ancient origin, has come into full acceptance only in recent years. Journals representing national organizations particularly of the specialties, are born almost literally one a minute, like Barnum's well-known clientele; at state level, in this country, some thirty-six journals now represent approximately forty of the forty-eight states, in addition to which the District of Columbia and the Territory of Hawaii each has its own publication.

Northwest Medicine has a range to ride even farther flung than that of the *Texas State Journal of Medicine,* representing as it does the medical societies of Oregon, Washington, Idaho and Alaska, with a total membership of approximately 4000. The *New England Journal of Medicine,* as the official organ of the Massachusetts and New Hampshire societies, serves a somewhat larger body of 6800 society members limited to a considerably smaller pasturage, geographically speaking.

State journals, however, no matter how good their intentions, cannot ordinarily fill the intimate needs of the closely knit and more highly personalized district society. The members of the district society, making up also the membership of the state society and the national association, look to their national and usually to their state journals for a different type of material than they expect to find in their local publications. These latter may well be newsy and contain items of local and personal interest, but their editors should also not hesitate to conduct them as open forums, encouraging correspondence and debate, and including editorial consideration of controversial subjects in fields of interest to physicians.

Perhaps the most ambitious of the local publications is *New York Medicine,* published twice a month under the auspices of the Medical Society of the County of New York. The most interesting from the Bay State angle are the five published under the symbol of the Sacred Cod—this *Hampden Hippocrat* that "will not use the knife, not even, verily, on sufferers from stone"; the *Bulletin of the Middlesex East District Medical Society;* the *Norfolk Medical News;* the *Worcester Medical News* and the *Worcester North Bulletin.*

To them all, prosperity in perpetuity, for they are the voices of a healthy social consciousness.

Joseph Garland

Hampden District Meeting

The Secretary reports that the Fall Meeting of the Hampden District Medical Society will be held in conjunction with the Women's Auxiliary, 6 P.M. Oct. 30th at the Hotel Kimball. President Thomas Lanman will be the guest speaker. Come one, come all!

Hampden Hippocrat

"Life is short and art is long, the occasion fleeting, experience fallacious and judgment difficult." —Hippocrates, 430 B.C.

This Issue 500 Copies

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NEO-HIPPOCRATIC PROGRAM
(No oaths needed)

To go to Hollywood for suggestions as to how to conduct your manner of life may seem unbelievably strange. And to go to the Keystone comedian himself, none other than Mack Sennett who rode to fame on the bare-backed bathing beauties may prove utterly beyond belief. Nevertheless, we take pleasure in summoning Mack* from ten years of retirement for that purpose just as the Government of France chose the veteran to be guest of honor at the recent Cannes Film Festival.

But the sixty-year-old set the pace for the glamour girls and somehow managed to stay awake knowing it would be undiplomatic to doze. A special feature of the festival was 1½ hours of the early Sennett Films starring Charlie Chaplin, Gloria Swanson and others. "I was worried about how these old pictures would go over," Sennett said, "but you never heard such laughs!" The hero returned from France enthusiastic about possibilities of such good-will contacts between the United States and the rest of the world.

"I understand," he added, "there are 750,000 people going from here to Europe this year. If they will all remember that they are good-will ambassadors they can do more good than the money we are pouring into Europe."

Sennett's tips to travelers abroad are so applicable to traveling Americans in general—even more so to relations of physicians and their public, that we give them to you verbatim:

1. Don't be a show-off. Instead of driving around in an expensive U. S. auto hire a little foreign car.
2. Don't throw your money around. Europeans don't like to be reminded that they are poor.
3. Don't order the natives around. You are a walking billboard for democracy.
4. Remember a friendly smile is your calling card.

He added another point—"Don't be surprised by anything."

Even Father Hippocrates would need to think twice to say more than that. We are sure he would have added a hearty Amen! and pinned them on the bulletin board at Cos.

S. Q. Lapius

*Via the Springfield Union, June 16, 1952.

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PLANKS AND PROMISES

"We are opposed to federal compulsory health insurance with its crushing cost, wasteful inefficiency, bureaucratic dead weight and debased standards of medical care."

"There should be a just division of responsibility between government, the physician, the voluntary hospital and voluntary health insurance."

These are clear, uncompromising declarations adopted in the Republican Platform.

The health plank of the Democratic party while dodging the issue of compulsory health insurance, might have been worse. Much of it is non-controversial, but the Ewing influence was strong enough to secure inclusion of the unequivocal assertion, "We advocate federal aid for medical education." President Truman is commended for establishing his Commission for the Health Needs of the Nation.

Congressman John F. Kennedy has stated: "The conerstone of my political philosophy is devotion to free enterprise. This must never be destroyed. I also strongly believe that the dignity of the doctor should not be infringed by the government. Any federal program endangering the high calling of the doctor, I would oppose. The relationship between doctor and patient is sacred and it must be kept that way. Any government action to make this relationship a cold, routine, mechanical one would be a step on the road to the all-powerful state and its attendant chaotic evils. It is my hope that doctors and government leaders can work together cooperatively to reach a solution to this problem."

Statement of Henry Cabot Lodge, Jr.

"This problem is one which must be met in such a way that the sick will receive good medical care without lowering the standards of the medical profession, without depriving the patient of the choice of his doctor, and without creating a system which is so overwhelmed by goldbrickers and malingerers that the really sick cannot get proper attention. The specific problem, of course, is to ease the financial burden of medical care for the individual citizen who is neither a millionaire nor a charity case.

"I believe Congress should provide funds right away for research and experimentation in the field of voluntary health insurance. We need to determine the utmost possibilities of such private insurance schemes as Blue Cross and Blue Shield. I believe that these private schemes will give the individual more for his money, without in any way impairing medical standards, than could any compulsory health insurance program operated by the government."

"The A.M.A., as a nonpartisan, professional organization, is barred, both ethically and legally, from participating in election campaigns," Dr. Louis H. Bauer, President of the A.M.A., said, adding: "The Association will take no part in the presidential election, except to join with other nonpartisan groups in urging all eligible voters to cast their ballots on election day, regardless of their affiliations or preferences. Individual doctors, of course, are entirely free to engage in election activities and, in fact, have a very real responsibility to make their influence felt for good government."

The presidential candidates too have committed themselves. Make up your minds, ladies and gentlemen, and be prepared to vote on the merits of this, to us, urgent issue.

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MEDICAL READER

Parliamentation

Fellows or others who may have profited by a tip in this column concerning General Robert's "Rules" might enjoy a visit to that birthplace of rules and precedents, the British Parliament, to see how the business of legislation is hedged and hampered, even hamstrung by red and pink tape. Enjoyment will be certain if A. P. Herbert is employed as guide, for example in "Independent Member" published in 1951 by Doubleday & Co., Inc., Garden City, N. Y. This engaging representative of Oxford University recites his own experiences in that hectic forensic arena where heckling is not only tolerated but encouraged. The author needed permission of *Punch* to reprint many items, some in verse—also of the Controller of his Majesty's Stationery Office to use extracts from speeches made in the House of Commons.

Some of our medical speechmakers will take comfort in learning of the embarrassment of quite celebrated figures. Addison, the famous essayist, made only one attempt to speak; Steele was howled down by Tories whom he dared to criticize. Mr. Gladstone's maiden speech was by report " . . . a few remarks . . . not audible in the Gallery." But they might also learn to make adequate preparation that would minimize the use of distracting notes.

Mr. Herbert should be much more widely read whether or not you intend to speak.

Lest We Forget

The Greatest Book in the World. The outstanding event in the history of publishing is the Revised Standard Version of the Bible: A first printing of almost one million volumes, using more than one thousand tons of paper, two thousand gallons of ink, ten tons of type metal, eighteen million seven hundred fifty thousand yards of thread, twenty million square inches of gold leaf! Stacked in one pile, the Bibles would tower twenty-four miles into the stratosphere up among the cosmic rays.

Bully

American bullfighters like Sidney Franklin undeniably are rare birds, to scramble the fauna. The current example, Barnaby Conrad alias The California Kid, also can write and paint portraits. If you are in need of an escape mechanism, he has provided a most enthralling tale of the art of Tauromachy that proves beyond a doubt that as a bullfighter the kid is a writer who deserves both the ears of the victim and those of his hearers as well. "Matador" 1952, Houghton, Mifflin & Co., Boston, Mass.

RESERVE OFFICERS TO RECEIVE CREDIT

Reserve credit points may be earned by medical service Reserve Officers for attendance at the sessions of the forthcoming 59th annual meeting of the Association of Military Surgeons, the Department of Defense has announced. Eligible medical officers of the Army, Navy, and Air Force Reserves may participate. The authorization covers physicians, dentists, veterinarians, nurses, Women's Medical Specialist and Medical Service Corps officers.

The meeting will be held at the Statler Hotel in Washington, D. C., November 17-19, under the presidency of Major General Harry G. Armstrong, Surgeon General of the Air Force. It will be an excellent opportunity for Reserve Officers to be brought up to date on the latest developments of military medicine. Consult Department of Defense, Office of Public Information, Washington 25, D. C.

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Absorbine Jr.

THE NEED FOR NURSES

In a letter to the N. E. Journal of Medicine, by Miss Ann Curran of the Boston City Hospital School for Nursing, an appeal is made to physicians to try and interest young women including their own daughters, to take up nursing as a career. She stresses the opportunities for service, the many openings and the excellent financial return the profession offers.

This is only one of many such calls for help in the effort to find a remedy for the nursing shortage, and it does seem as though there must be reasons and good ones for the failure to supply the nurses so urgently needed. We have talked the subject over with several women whom we thought unusually good material and some of the objections were—the course is too long without pay; the degree of R.N. is hardly worth any more from a money point of view than the L.A., the course which is only half as long; the training is too hard; there is little time for dates; too little personal freedom for outside contacts.

Many of us have thought that the three year course required for registered nurses could be shortened with advantage, by using some of the time saving methods learned during the war. Indeed on going over the courses of the various schools for nurses many of the subjects taught bear little relation to the practical art of nursing. If a girl wishes to combine a college course as at Simmons where she acquires two degrees, B.S. and R.N., she will undoubtedly be in line for top executive positions. But the general duty nurse has no need for such specialized training and the problem confronting our schools for nursing is how to streamline the course in accordance with the modern demand.

There is something in the complaint that the degree of L.A., which means glorified practical nurse carries with it a considerable amount of prestige and entitles its possessor to almost the same pay as the R.N. Furthermore she becomes self supporting sooner. It is impossible to ignore the fact that many state and municipal hospitals are already promoting courses for this kind of practical nurse as a solution to their nursing problems. Then again we are the victims of the changing world in that private nursing doesn't have the appeal to young women, in comparison with all the other opportunities, industrial, governmental and many others. It would help considerably if the thousands of nurses absorbed into army, navy and veterans hospitals could be allocated to home duty, and their places taken by male nurses who complain bitterly against discrimination. Furthermore it is difficult for civilian hospitals to compete with the good pay, short hours, lack of responsibility, free time, pensions, sick leave and paid vacations which industry offers to nurses.

Nursing of the sick is a hard profession, particularly in the home where families have to be catered to as well as the patient, and the devoted service which nurses render in time of need is beyond all praise. It may be that our young women do not have that zeal for service, that nursing must be presented to them in a new light, offering more benefits, unemployment compensation and others. An opportunity is offered here for work which has no retirement age and offers a good living as long as one is able to work. This is a problem in which we are all interested, which should be brought to the attention of all student counsellors in our high schools, to women's organizations, and especially to our woman's auxiliary for study.

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MODERN MIRACLE

Dear Hippocrat:

It has just come to my attention that my secretary at one time was employed in the Record Room of the South Shore Hospital at South Weymouth, Mass., and she was quite elated about the birth of the four quadruplets down there last week. I asked her who the doctor was and she said, "Dr. Ryan," and I asked her if he was an obstetrician. She said, "No, a general practitioner." I asked if the children have any chance for survival after such a marvelous miracle as a general practitioner in a small hospital delivering four live babies from one female woman. She said that Dr. Ryan is about 56 years old and has been all his life well regarded, always kept good records in the hospital and did good work.

Of course, Dr. DeFoe in Quebec delivered five babies and attended to their early upbringing until the specialists took the job away from him by way of the Canadian Government and got credit for growing the babies. Maybe some government department will intercede at Weymouth to be sure that these four new babies get proper care.

The little hospital at Weymouth must be very pleased with itself, and if the members of the staff can subjugate the usual professional personal jealousies for the moment (which may not exist in Weymouth), Dr. Robert Ryan, the general practitioner, may be able to guide in his own sweet and competent way the early destinies of these lovely infants.

It is reported that Dr. Ryan is a native of Weymouth. In this case the home town boy makes good, in fact made better than good. How come Elsie the Pink Cow overlooked this record-setting event?

A Father of Male Twins.

DISTAFF DOINGS

The Scholarship Committee of the Women's Auxiliary of the Hampden District Medical Association, headed by former president, Mrs. Roger Cheney, announced that the scholarships to the Schools of Nursing had been awarded to four young women attending schools of nursing and one who entered Springfield Trade High School this Fall. The winners were Miss Ruth Rosenbeck of Garland St., Springfield, to the Mercy Hospital School; Miss Lucille Laramee of Terrault St., Willimansett, to the Holyoke Hospital; Miss Joan Arnold, Maple St., Hazardville, Conn., to the Springfield Hospital School and Miss Janet Page of Holyoke to the Providence Hospital, Holyoke. The award to a girl entering the attendant Nursing course at the Springfield Trade High School goes to Miss Shirley Barr of Marion St., Springfield.

The awarding committee of the auxiliary consisted of Mrs. Leonard Smith, Westfield, Mrs. Paul Ashton and Mrs. Calvert Stein, Longmeadow, Mrs. Malcolm Allen, Springfield, Mrs. George Ross and Mrs. Edward McHugh of Holyoke and Mrs. Beauchamp, Chicopee. Mrs. Martin Gaynor, Indian Orchard, president of the auxiliary this coming year, and Mrs. Roger Cheney, past president, both acted ex-officio.

Money was raised for these scholarships by a Fashion Show and Card Party. The 1952-53 season will be a busy one. Already the Committee has planned various activities to build up an equal amount for the same purpose a year from now. In addition to the money-making projects many recruitment teas were given for girls interested in the nursing education at the hospitals in the Hampden District.

Mrs. Priscilla H. Dixon,

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MORE HEART SOUNDS

In 1950 there were 50,359 deaths of residents of Massachusetts from all causes and 21,322 deaths from heart disease. .9% of all ages are disabled by cardiovascular-renal disease, and 1.6% of all ages are disabled by high blood pressure. These figures assume more importance in the fourth decade of life and are present to a lesser degree in a young person seeking his or her first job. It now becomes the responsibility of the patient's physician or the examining physician when the new employee is beginning his work, to determine the presence of heart disease, and the extent of the disability, and to designate the type of work which he may safely and effectively carry on. I believe the Work Classification Unit, with some additional assistance, may be incorporated as a part of the three Heart Clinics which give service to this area. The Rehabilitation effort would seem to require no particular departure from the activities of maintaining their present Heart Clinic plus the Work Classification Unit, other than additional clerical service assistance. The plan of the Cleveland Work Classification Unit seems adaptable to our purposes, and I suggest that we follow the salient features of this program.

The services of a nurse should be available to serve the clinic both for the Work Clasification Unit and the Rehabilitation program. Other nurses, especially those engaged in industry, would be cordially invited to observe and to help.

A laboratory technician. It is probable that arrangements could be made for laboratory work to be carried on through existing facilities of the heart clinic.

A vocational or job analyst, for vocational testing and counseling. We have no such person available so far as I know, and this would be an item of expense unless the Junior League or some other organization cared to take this on.

A medical social worker, or psychiatric medical worker should be available, and this would require an additional worker and corresponding additional expense.

Secretarial services should be provided by a part time clerk or volunteer. It is to be hoped that this could be obtained through the cooperation of some existing agencies without additional expense.

Clinic Time should be by appointment and preferably could be handled at the close of the regular heart clinic then.

A follow-up is essential in order to study the results of recommendations, the effect of work on the course of the disease, and to decide whether present criteria are reasonable and sound.

The expense of the program would vary according to the amount of volunteer help we could obtain.

We propose to pattern our Clinic after the Cleveland Clinic and the one maintained by the St. Michael's Hospital in Newark, New Jersey. We will hold our sessions the same morning as the regular Cardiac Clinics are held in the three participating hospitals. This offers, thus, the advantages of consultative services when necessary. There are undoubtedly many hurdles which must be taken before this program can run smoothly and I feel sure that there is much constructive criticism which interested employers will be prompt to offer. I shall be glad to clarify any part of the outlined program by letter or personal conversation.

George L. Steele, M.D.

Hot Flash

Eggs should be stored large-end-up to keep the yolks well-centered.

Science News Letter

Compliments
George St. Pierre
Springfield

COMPLIMENTS
Ernest A. Byron
SPRINGFIELD

FISKE FUND PRIZE DISSERTATION

The Trustees of the Caleb Fiske Fund of the Rhode Island Medical Society announce the following subject for the prize dissertation of 1952:

"THE PRESENT STATUS OF ANTI-COAGULANT THERAPY."

For the best dissertation a prize of $200 is offererd.

RADIOACTIVE ISOTOPES, when used in treatment of cancer and for other purposes, impose a great responsibility on physicians.

Few conventional medicines, said Dr. Albert H. Holland, Jr., medical director of the Armour Laboratories, Chicago, have the power to produce drastic changes in the body several years after they are administered. This is the case with the radioactive materials given to cancer patients to kill the malignant cells of tumor.

POSTGRADUATE ASSEMBLY HOTEL STATLER, BOSTON

One of the outstanding medical postgraduate sessions of its kind in the country, the New England Postgraduate Assembly, will be held this fall on October 28, 29 and 30. It is designed especially for the general practitioner and will feature symposia, panels, lectures, medical films, and clinics.

Theodore L. Badger, M.D.

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